

selected stud's second end to the second track. The clip base has a planar first surface and an opposing second surface, and the guide opposing arms comprise a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the base oriented in the same direction as the first arm. In one embodiment the arms are selectively spatially disposed to operatively engage the second member web with a selected frictional resistance to the operative sliding engagement.

Another aspect of the present invention includes a method of framing a wall structure, comprising providing a first track, providing a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track, providing a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud characterized by a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between ends of the stud, and providing a clip for operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint. The clip comprises a base fixable to the first track, and a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms defining a channel receivingly engageable with the selected stud's web in a characteristic operative sliding relationship. A method further comprises engaging the selected stud's first end with the clip, connecting the clip to the first track with a fastener, and connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track with a fastener.

These and various other features as well as advantages which characterize embodiments of the present invention will be apparent upon a reading of the following detailed description and review of the associated drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an exploded isometric view of a portion of a wall framing assembly comprising a deflection clip constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention for joining framing assembly members in a slip joint;

FIG. 1A is an enlarged detail view of a portion of the clip of FIG. 1.

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view of the deflection clip of FIG. 1 operatively slidingly engaging the vertical framing member web during deflection between the framing assembly members.

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view of only the deflection clip of FIG. 1.

5 FIG. 4 is a cross sectional view of a deflection clip similar to FIG. 3 but constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a cross sectional view of the deflection clip of FIG. 1 fixed at a proximal end to the horizontal framing member.

10 FIG. 6 is an isometric view of a deflection clip constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is an elevational view of the deflection clip of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is an isometric view of a deflection clip constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a cross sectional view of the deflection clip of FIG. 8.

15 FIG. 10 is an isometric view of a deflection clip constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 is a cross sectional view of the guide portion of the deflection clip of FIG. 10 operatively slidingly engaging the vertical framing member.

20 FIG. 12 is a view similar to FIG. 11 but of a deflection clip constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 13 and 14 diagrammatically illustrate a snap-on method of operatively attaching the deflection clip of FIG. 10 to the vertical framing member.

FIG. 15 is a cross sectional view similar to FIG. 5 but of the deflection clip of FIG. 10 attached at the fixed end to the horizontal framing member.

FIG. 16 is a diagrammatic isometric view of a portion of a wall framing assembly constructed in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 17 and 18 are isometric and side views, respectively, of a clip constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention substantially similar to the clip of FIG. 1.

Detailed Description

Turning now to the drawings in general and more particularly to FIG. 1 which is an isometric view of a deflection clip 100 (or "clip" 100) constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention for operatively joining a first framing member 102 (sometimes referred to as "track") and a second framing member 104 (sometimes referred to as "stud") in a slip joint. The members 102, 104 form a portion of a wall framing assembly. "Slip joint," for purposes of this description, means that the members 102, 104 are joined so as to permit a controlled displacement of one of the members relative to the other member under loading. This relative displacement allows deflection in the wall assembly under loading to prevent damage.

Generally, a clip constructed in accordance with embodiments of the present invention, such as clip 100, has a proximal end fixed to the first member 102 and a distal end receivingly engaging the second member 104 in a characteristic operative sliding engagement. The framing members 102, 104 in FIG. 1 are illustratively disposed substantially horizontally and vertically, respectively. In this arrangement, the desired deflection typically occurs along the second member 104 longitudinal axis. Namely, this means the horizontal member has freedom of movement in a direction substantially along the vertical member longitudinal axis. This example is illustrative and not limiting, as equivalent embodiments are contemplated that operatively join framing members in a slip joint at other desired orientations. An enumeration of all possible framing member orientations is not necessary for an understanding of the embodiments of the present invention.